

U.S. Application No.:  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

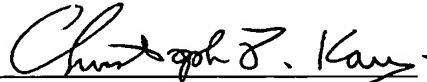
Attorney Docket: 3875.029

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims and claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. The specification has been amended to incorporate amendments made under Article 36. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter is added to the text.

Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 24, 2004

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**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EV608290248US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: September 24, 2004

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated with sufficient postage and is addressed: **ATTN: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

  
Bonnie L. Horst